Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government)*:

(*a*) 15th March 1930.

(*b*) 13th January 1938.

(*c*) In order to keep the canals in the vicinity of the Maharaja's Hospital and the new T. D. High School building in a clean condition, the Chief Engineer has reported that masonry drains with cemented bottom have to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 7,500 and Rs. 16,000 respectively. This is under consideration.

(*d*) There was a proposal from the Chief Medical Officer that the drain to the north of the Maharaja's Hospital should be closed altogether, and that if that is not possible, to cement it and flush it daily.

(*e*) A copy of the report is placed on the Council table.

DRAINS AND CANALS IN MATTANCHERI—DIRTY CONDITION OF

87. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Will the Government be pleased.—

(*a*) to place a map of the navigable waterways through Mattancheri Constituency from Chellanam Village in the south to the Calvetty Canal in the north up to the bridge that connects British Cochin with new road (Pullupalam) in Mattancheri;

(*b*) has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article styled "Mattancheri Town Improvement, Drains and Canals" that was published in the *Cochin Argus* on Saturday, April 22, 1939;

(*c*) what action, if any, has been taken to improve the conditions of the drains and canals in general in Mattancheri, and in particular regarding the drains and canals in the vicinity of the Maharaja's Hospital and the Thirumala Devaswam High School, since the last meeting of the Council;

(*d*) is the above waterway, sub-division (*a*), now in use;

(*e*) during the last 10 years, has any money been spent on the waterway to keep it in good order or to clear silt from it, or to repair its banks or otherwise;

(*f*) will the Government be pleased to state what will be the cost of keeping in clean sanitary order the canals

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in the vicinities of the Maharaja's Hospital, and the Thirumala Devaswam New High School building?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) A map of the navigable waterways referred to is placed on the Council table.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Several drains to draw away surface water are being constructed every year. The existing drains are also being cleaned regularly every day. Steps are being taken to reclaim marshy places and to fill up canals, ponds, etc., that are unfit either for navigation or for drainage. The Cherlai Canal passing near the new T. D. High School building is navigable in certain places. The cost of improving this canal and those in the vicinity of the Maharaja's Hospital would be very great.

(*d*) The portion of the waterway lying within the Mattancheri Municipality is now in use in some parts by small country crafts.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The cost of improving the canals near the Maharaja's Hospital is estimated at Rs. 7,500 and that for improving the canals near the T. D. High School at Rs. 16,000.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether this cost is considered by Government to be very great?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is great for the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know, Sir, why this amount of Rs. 7,500 could not be found for the past 10 years for the improvement of the canal by the side of the hospital which caters to the public health of Mattancheri?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is not merely a question of cost. In Mattancheri, the canals by the side of the T. D. High School and the Hospital are not the only ones. There are several other canals in Mattancheri. So, any expenditure we make in that direction should be based upon a certain definite programme of improvement. For this purpose, Government have asked a very experienced officer of Madras to prepare a comprehensive programme and that scheme is under preparation. Only after

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Government are in possession of the details of the scheme, that they will be able to undertake works of this nature.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* It is now 10 years since we have been hearing of this scheme. I ask the question, why some temporary measures should not be made to keep the hospital canal clean.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In our schemes for the next year we propose to improve this canal.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the improvement you contemplate with this Rs. 7,500?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We are going to improve the canal in some places by a masonary drain.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Could not that have been done during the past 10 years? I know that the drainage scheme is a very costly one. But, are we to wait for a long time? On account of this, the health of the poor people going to the hospital is jeopardised. You can ask the C. M. O. about this.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In fact, the predecessor of the present C. M. O. wanted to retain this canal for boats to come in. But, it is now found that it is not necessary, because the hospital itself has a good water front. Government have decided to improve this canal next year.

Mr. President: Is it a big canal?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* It is only a small canal coming from the northern side and touching the backwater.

Mr. President: Now you propose to close it and make it only a drain?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes, a small drain.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Easa Sait *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the work will be started or completed next year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It will be completed next year.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether this canal by the side of the T. D. School is not a waterway that connects the Calvetty canal at the northern end of Mattancheri and goes right up to Chellanam?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Now, the hon'ble member is putting a large question as to whether we should have navigable waterways in Mattancheri cutting that town

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into several parts. That question has to be decided once for all and it is now under the consideration of the local Municipality. It is only after they have decided the question, we can take any action.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* My question was, whether this canal which runs by the side of the T. D. School, is not a continuation of the canal which runs from the Calvetty Bridge. It continues from that end up to Chellanam running by the side of the roadway and has been in existence from time immemorial.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I do not know how long it has been in existence. I think that was a navigable canal.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Has the Chief Engineer investigated whether by deepening this canal it cannot be made a drainage as well as a navigable canal?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The question is whether we should have one such thing in a town like Mattancheri.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Why not you keep it clean?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is why we are preparing a scheme for the complete drainage.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is this Rs. 16,000 estimated for?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is for cementing the canal, making it into a good drain.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* It won't be navigable as it was before, since this will be converted into a small drain. Even now a portion of it is navigable.

Mr. President: You are now going to convert the canal into a small drain?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE—MATTANCHERI—INTRODUCTION OF

88. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Commerce and Industry):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have any idea of introducing underground drainage system in the Mattancheri town;

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